

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Tank Division in Kazanlık

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1. Informant heard during December 1953 from an Army officer stationed in Kazanlık that a Tank Division has been located in that city for the past two years. He stated that there are two units of the Division quartered in barracks located at the Kazanlık Airfield about 50 meters south of the Levskigrad (formerly Karlovo)-Kazanlık railroad line and west of a war plant. The units are equipped with Soviet tanks and use others of German make for training purposes. Further details are not known.

Artillery Unit in Sofia

2. Informant visited Sofia in March 1954 and observed an unidentified artillery unit located in the former barracks of the 1 Mechanized Artillery Regiment. The barracks are in the Poduene district at the end of Oborishte and Georgi Piyachevich Streets. Troops entering and leaving the barracks area wore the shoulder boards and insignia of the artillery. Strength, weapons and other details are not known.

Infantry Unit in Sofia

3. An unidentified infantry unit is located at the corner of Stalin and Patriarkhi Eftimi Streets in Sofia in barracks formerly occupied by the 6 Infantry Regiment.

Permanent Summer Camp at Shiroko Pole

4. During April 1954, informant observed a permanent summer camp located at Shiroko Pole (N 41-38, E 25-28), Kurdzhali Okoliya along the western side of the Khaskovo-Kurdzhali railroad line. Within the area are 250-300

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one-story huts, about 3 x 2 meters in size. The huts are arranged in parallel lines, and at regular intervals, there are five or six larger one-story buildings, about 6 x 10 meters in size. In the front of the camp are recreation area. Stables, also arranged in parallel lines, are at the far end. A barbed wire fence 1.5 meters high surrounds the entire area. In front of the fence parallel to the railroad tracks is a ditch.

Military Training

5. Courses in tank engine maintenance, conducted by Soviet trained Bulgarian specialists, are given to enlisted men attached to a tank unit at Kazanluk. As a result of this training, former students have become proficient in driving as well as engine maintenance, and upon discharge are qualified tractor mechanics and may work at agricultural stations. Details concerning the length of training and numbers of students are not known.
6. During March 1954, informant visited Sofia and observed in the Lozenets district on the square, a branch of the Sofia Officers School. The area is surrounded by a high wall and two students dressed in the uniform of the officer candidates in Sofia are stationed at the entrance as guards. Others, wearing similar uniforms, were seen entering and leaving the grounds.
7. In January 1954, informant observed in the suburb of Knyazevo (N 42-40, E 23-15), near Sofia, military exercises involving tanks and students of the nearby Reserve Officers School in Gorna Banya. Informant does not know whether the tanks belonged to the school or to some unidentified tank unit. No further details are known.
8. Informant reports that in Ruse, opposite the State Hospital and behind the old railroad station, there is a school for Reserve Officers. There are about 400 students at the school. They are quartered in the barracks of the former 5 Infantry Regiment. Upon graduation, students are given a probationary rank of Second Lieutenant.

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